

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 06437 01 OF 02 181500Z  
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W  
-----181502Z 123363 /43

R 181418Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3673

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 CAIRO 6437

NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MASS, US, EG  
SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN ARMS REQUEST FOR "AFRICA CORPS"

1. AS I SUSPECTED WOULD BE THE CASE, THE EGYPTIANS HAVE NOW GIVEN US A LIST OF ARMS THAT THEY WOULD LIKE US TO PROVIDE IN CONNECTION WITH THEIR AVOWED EFFORTS TO RESIST SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA. IT IS A LULU\*

2. DURING MY LAST MEETING WITH FAHMY, HE RECALLED SADAT'S DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON WITH PRESIDENT CARTER, YOU, SECRETARY BROWN AND CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS ABOUT THE SOVIET THREAT TO AFRICA AND GOE'S DETERMINATION TO ASSIST MODERATE AFRICAN GOVTS TO MEET THAT THREAT. SADAT, HE RECALLED, HAD INDICATED THAT EGYPT HAS ALREADY BEEN REQUESTED BY TANZANIA, ZAIRE AND SUDAN TO SEND MILITARY HELP AND HAS DONE SO IN THE FORM OF WEAPONS. FAHMY STATED SADAT AND HE HAD BEEN ENCOURAGED BY THE SYMPATHETIC UNDERSTANDING SHOWN BY ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS TO EGYPT'S EFFORTS IN AFRICA. VARIOUS MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS HAD EVEN INDICATED TO HIM THAT CONGRESS WOULD PROBABLY APPROVE ARMS FOR EGYPT FOR USE TO BOLSTER MODERATE REGIMES IN AFRICA. WITH

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 06437 01 OF 02 181500Z

THIS IN MIND, SADAT HAD INSTRUCTED FAHMY TO PREPARE A LIST OF REQUIRED ARMAMENTS AND EQUIPMENT NEEDED TO ESTABLISH A "MOBILE TASK FORCE TO COPE WITH EMERGENCY SITUATION IN AFRICA." FAHMY CALLED IT A TYPE OF "AFRICA CORPS".

3. EGYPT, FAHMY CONTENDED, WILL PROVIDE MILITARY

ASSISTANCE TO MODERATE AFRICAN STATES WITH OR WITHOUT UNITED STATES ASSISTANCE. IF USG IS SERIOUS ABOUT SUPPORTING GOE EFFORTS TO MEET SOVIET THREAT IN AFRICA, IT CAN ASSIST GOE IN THIS ENDEAVOR BY PROVIDING THE TYPE OF EQUIPMENT REQUESTED. GOE WILL NOT, HOWEVER, AGREE TO USG SUPERVISION OF SUCH A CORPS. FAHMY ALSO STRESSED THAT THE PRESENT LIST IS SEPARATE FROM THE EARLIER GOE REQUEST FOR ARMS FOR EGYPT'S OWN DEFENSES. AFTER HANDING ME THE LIST, HE ASKED FOR MY PERSONAL REACTION.

4. I TOLD HIM THAT I WOULD OF COURSE SUBMIT THE LIST AS HE HAD REQUESTED. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, HOWEVER, I DID NOT BELIEVE THERE WAS MUCH CHANCE OF OBTAINING CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL FOR THE LIST OF ARMS AND EQUIPMENT THAT HE WAS NOW REQUESTING. I DID NOT RECALL ANY DISCUSSION IN WASHINGTON ABOUT AN EGYPTIAN "AFRICA CORPS," BUT SIMPLY OF SOME EGYPTIAN ARMS HAVING BEEN PROVIDED TO MODERATE AFRICAN STATES AND SADAT'S SUGGESTION THAT EGYPT COULD CONTINUE TO DO SO IF THE USG WOULD BE WILLING TO ASSIST. THE PRESENT LIST SEEMS TO GO FAR BEYOND THAT CONCEPT. I HAD TO TELL HIM AS A FRIEND THAT IT IS CERTAIN TO AROUSE SUSPICIONS THAT IT IS A BACKDOOR EFFORT TO OBTAIN ARMS FOR POSSIBLE USE AGAINST ISRAEL.

5. I ALSO RECALLED THAT BOTH SADAT AND HE HAD SEVERAL TIMES IN THE PAST TOLD ME THAT, AFTER THE YEMENI DEBACLE, PUBLIC OPINION WOULD NOT ALLOW EGYPTIAN TROOPS TO BE SENT  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 CAIRO 06437 01 OF 02 181500Z

ANYWHERE OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY EXCEPT THE SUDAN AND LIBYA. HE NOW SEEMED TO BE TELLING ME THAT EGYPT IS PREPARED TO SEND A MOBILE TASK FORCE TO ANYWHERE IN AFRICA. THIS SEEMED TO BE A CHANGE OF CONCEPT. FAHMY ACKNOWLEDGED THE INCONSISTENCY, BUT NOTED THAT EGYPT HAS IN THE PAST SENT TROOPS TO HELP SETTLE THE BIAFRAN REBELLION IN NIGERIA AND TO THE CONGO. SADAT, HE OBSERVED, CONSIDERS THE SOVIET THREAT TO MODERATE REGIMES IN AFRICA SUFFICIENTLY SERIOUS TO BE WILLING TO SEND TROOPS. HE INSISTED SUCH AN "AFRICA CORPS" WOULD NOT BE USED AGAINST ISRAEL EXCEPT IN THE EVENT OF AN ISRAELI ATTACK. HE ASKED FOR AN EARLY REACTION TO THE EGYPTIAN LIST.

6. THE LIST IS AS FOLLOWS:

A. TRANSPORT & LANDING MEANS

36 C-130 TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT

72 S-61-R, CH3C CHINOOK HELICOPTERS

36 BELL 214 A2 HELICOPTERS

16 BELL COBRA ESCORT HELICOPTERS  
(ALL ABOVE COMPLETE WITH NAVIGATION FACILITIES,  
GROUND EQUIPMENT, ETC.)  
HEAVY DROPPING PLATFORMS WITH PARACHUTES  
LIGHT DROPPING CONTAINERS WITH PARACHUTES

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 06437 02 OF 02 181504Z  
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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3674

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 CAIRO 6437

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FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

B. RECONNAISSANCE EQUIPMENT  
55 RECONNAISSANCE VEHICLES XR 311  
22 GROUND OBSERVATION RADARS AN PP 55, RANGE 3700 M.  
5 GROUND OBSERVATION RADARS AN PRS 5A, RANGE 10 KMS.  
12 ELECTRONIC RADIATION DETECTORS

C. COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT  
10 (SETS) ?, 400 W TRANSMITTERS  
10 (SETS) SSB RECEIVERS  
10 (SETS) RADIOSTATIONS VHF-UHF  
100 (SETS) INDIVIDUAL RADIO DIRECTION FINDERS  
20 NIGHT ASSEMBLY DEVICES FOR GUIDING TROOPS AFTER LANDING

D. ARMAMENT  
200 DRAGON X 547 AT LAUNCHERS  
50 TOW AT LAUNCHERS  
75 REDEYE AA LAUNCHERS  
15 BULCAN 30MM, AA GUNS  
10 CHAPARRELS  
22 HOWITZER 105MM XM 193  
22 MORTARS 107MM.  
30 BUSH-MASTER 20MM. AUTOMATIC GUNS

SECRET

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 06437 02 OF 02 181504Z

E. AMMUNITION

6 FU COMBAT AMMUNITION FOR ALL ARTY & AT WEAPONS

10 FU COMBAT AMMUNITION FOR ALL ARTY & AA WEAPONS

3 FU TRAINING AMMUNITION FOR ALL WEAPONS

F. NIGHT VISION DEVICES

ALL WEAPONS ARE REQUESTED TO BE EQUIPPED WITH  
ADEQUATE NIGHT VISION DEVICES.

G. TRAINING EQUIPMENT

ALL NECESSARY TRAINING EQUIPMENT AND AIDS ARE  
REQUESTED FOR ALL A/M REQUIREMENTS.

7. FAHMY DID NOT KNOW WHAT SIZE UNIT EGYPT HAS IN MIND  
IN CONTEMPLATED "AFRICA CORPS." BASED ON DAO'S ANALYSIS  
OF LIST, IT APPEARS THAT THE EQUIPMENT COULD PROVIDE  
SUPPORT FOR APPROXIMATELY TWO BRIDGES: ONE PARATROOPER  
BRIGADE AND ONE AIR MOBILE BRIGADE WHICH WOULD GIVE BOTH  
STRATEGIC AND TECHNICAL MOBILITY TO SUCH UNITS.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Type:** TE  
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